

ENERGY TIDBITS

January 2006

Noble Thumb Windpark recently had groundbreaking near Uby. Preliminary construction work began in September and the installation of the first turbines is expected some time in April. When completed, the windpark will consist of 32 turbines across 4,700 acres of farmland in Bingham Township, and will generate 48 MW. Noble officials say that will be enough energy to power 16,000 average homes. The project will cost approximately \$75 million, and should generate about \$6.5 million in new property tax revenue over the next 20 years. Noble estimates construction of the park will result in approximately 200 new construction jobs for up to one year, as well as 10 permanent operating jobs. The electric power produced by the project will be sold to Consumers Energy Company as part of its Green Generation Program. Future phases of the Noble Thumb Windpark are expected to extend through southeastern Huron County and Sanilac County over the next several years.

Photovoltaic Demonstration Project Grants will be available to public and non-profit organizations to install and demonstrate a new 10 kW or larger PV system. An incentive payment of \$50,000 but not to exceed 90% of PV system equipment, material and supplies costs is offered to prospective applicants. A total of \$150,000 is available for projects. Proposals are due by March 17, 2006. To receive a copy of the Request For Proposal please contact John Trieloff, (517) 241-6224 or email, jitriel@michigan.gov.

Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum has been created by the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality in partnership with nearly 70 organizations. The curriculum is designed to provide students in grades 4-9 with an opportunity to learn about their environment through 5 different curriculum units: Air Quality, Ecosystems & Biodiversity, Energy Resources, Land Use, and Water Quality. Over 150 teacher training workshops have been scheduled. www.michigan.gov/deq-meecs

Harvesting Clean Agri-Energy Conference will be held at the Horizons Center in Saginaw on March 15. Agenda topics will include bio-gas digesters, renewable energies, and bio-fuels and bio-products. www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops

University of Michigan's Industrial Assessment Center performed an energy audit at Ferro Corporation's plastic colorant plant in Stryker, Ohio. It showed that the plant could save almost \$210,000 per year in energy and operating costs. Opportunities for saving electricity and natural gas and for increasing productivity included installing devices to improve water cooling and optimizing the use of the compressed air system. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy05osti/38527.pdf>

CHP Opportunities with Alternative Energy Sources will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at the NextEnergy Center in Detroit. www.shepherdadvisors.com/events.htm

Inter-Seasonal Heat Transfer developed by a London-based sustainable energy firm, icax Ltd, is a process that collects solar energy and stores it for use in heating buildings or road surfaces in the winter and cooling in the summer. Trials on M1 near London began in August. The technology uses underground energy reservoirs and hidden heat pumps to turn solar energy collected via the tarmac road surface into useful power. www.icax.co.uk

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Sustainable Energy Series: Home Energy Audits will be held on Saturday, January 21, 1-4pm at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. If you are looking for smart ways to beat the utility bill blues, this workshop is for you. Doug Black will take you on a photographic tour of an audit done on a recently-purchased home of EAC board member, Lori Pinkleton. Please visit www.uheac.org. Call 248-693-1021 or e-mail uheac@earthlink.net.

National Biofuels Energy Laboratory, housed at NextEnergy, is a fuel-research component seeded by the U.S. Department of Energy whose research will focus on advancing a new set of specifications for biodiesel that is intended to encourage the auto industry to promote a clean, agriculturally-derived alternative to imported petroleum.

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) will help Harvard University & the University of Southern Maine (USM) achieve certification for new buildings under the LEED Green Building Rating System. Under a two-year contract, Harvard will purchase 3.99 million kWh of 'Green-e' certified RECs from landfill gas generating projects, 150% of the electricity needed to power the new Graduate Student Housing building. Under a separate two-year contract, USM will purchase 1.5 million kWh of 'Green-e' certified RECs from wind energy facilities to offset the electricity needs of a new campus building www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/news/news_template.shtml?id=937

Advancing Energy Efficiency and Productivity will be held on March 23 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. <http://ww2.esd.org/EVENTS/EnergyConf.htm>

Bowling Green, Ohio currently generates 20% of its energy usage from renewable resources, according to city utilities director, Kevin Maynard. The 20% comes from a combination of wind turbines, hydroelectric power, methane generated from landfills and a solar energy project in conjunction with the university. The solar panels are located on the roof of the University ice arena. It is the second-largest solar panel array in Ohio and generates 31 kilowatts of energy. Maynard says that about 450 people, representing 3.2% of all customers, are signed on to the program.

Combined Heat & Power (CHP) Market Education Project is being conducted by Shepherd Advisors, LLC with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, through the Michigan Energy Office. There are many opportunities in Michigan where CHP can be especially effective, including Wastewater Treatment, Industrial Operations with high Pressure Boilers, Food Processing Plants, Landfills Near Industrial Areas, LEED Qualifying Projects, and Office Parks or Campuses. The purpose of the project is to advance the ability of potential institutional, commercial and industrial end-users of CHP to learn about, consider, and procure CHP. For more information about the program please contact: Ramsey Zimmerman, Shepherd Advisors, at (734) 461-9355 or ramsey@shepherdadvisors.com.

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Texas has signed a lease with a Louisiana company to build an offshore windfarm. The state has jurisdiction to 10 miles along the Gulf Coast, and will lease 11,355 acres to Galveston-Offshore Wind, to construct a \$300 million facility with 50 turbines and capacity of 150 MW. The first phase involves construction of two meteorological towers to collect data, which have already been permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The 30-year lease is expected to generate \$26.5 million for the state.

\$10 million in Low-Income Energy Efficiency Grants were awarded to 8 organizations by the Michigan Public Service Commission: 1)Michigan Dept of Human Services - \$4,500,000 for statewide distribution to low-income households for energy efficiency upgrades, with up to 20 percent of the grant available for energy education. 2)Habitat for Humanity - \$250,000 for energy efficiency upgrades to homes scheduled for construction in 2006 for low-income families in Michigan. 3)Bay de Noc Community College (M-TEC) - \$750,000 for purchase and distribution of energy savings kits to low-income rural households in Michigan. 4) Michigan Community Action Agency Association (MCAAA) - \$2,000,000 in total for statewide distribution to provide weatherization upgrades for low-income households, with up to 20 percent to be spent on client weatherization education. 5)Nonprofit Facilities Assistance Center - \$500,000 for matching grants to non-profit facilities for energy efficiency upgrades, energy efficiency audits, and energy efficiency/weatherization education. 6)Nova Development Group - \$1,350,000 for energy efficiency upgrades, and installations for low-income, multi-family dwellings throughout Michigan. 7)Urban Options - \$400,000 for weatherization of low-income clients' homes, with a focus on heating systems, for 11 counties located throughout the state. 8)Warm Training Center - \$250,000 for energy education for consumers who receive energy assistance.



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